

C O N T A C T

March 2021



L e n t

Volume 62 - Issue 4
Sawston Free Church – Castle Camps URC

Churches Services and Dates for Your Diary

Future Services- SFC - (all via zoom)

Castle Camps detail will be in their local newsletter

07 March	10.30 <i>Holy Communion</i> Rev Deborah McVey
14 March	10.30 Mothering Sunday led by Andy Nightingale and Brigades
21 March	10.30 Rev Dr Mike Wilson
28 March	10.30 Palm Sunday with Go4th
01 April	7.00pm Maundy Thursday - <i>Holy Communion</i> Rev Deborah McVey
02 April	7.00pm Good Friday Rev Deborah McVey
04 April	10.30 <i>Holy Communion</i> Rev E.Caswell

The closing date for **April** Contact is Friday **19th March**

**David Nunn is the editor, so please email your items
to contact@sawston.com or anne.nunn@btinternet.com**

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The monthly magazine of
Sawston Free Church & Castle Camps URC's
United Reformed – Methodist

Whilst in vacancy please refer Church related matters to:
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Sawston Free Church

As lockdown continues I think all ages are finding this present one, long and tiresome. The recent grey wintry days have been quite miserable and the recent cold spell we have just come through did not help either. But we did have a bit of snow to cheer up the children, but not enough in my garden for a snowman unfortunately!

But the gardens are pushing through new shoots, and buds are appearing in the shrubs and trees, and the days are becoming longer!!

We have to hang on to hope that life will get better and with the vaccines being given to more and more people we have to hope for a better future. The NHS are doing an amazing job, looking after those who are ill and rolling out the vaccination programme so efficiently and we have so much to be grateful for.

We are now in the season of Lent when we look at our lives and walk with Jesus through his testing time in the desert. We keep the hope of the resurrection in our hearts during this time and trust always in his love.

From the Elders

Please Remember - Sawston Free Church Meeting & AGM (via Zoom)

Monday 8th March at 7.30pm

Everyone Welcome

Please join us if you want to find out what is happening in our church and have your say.

Your Zoom invite will be emailed nearer the time.

Maggie

Message from Castle Camps



March has arrived in Camps and the village and the chapel have survived the ravages of rain, wind and snow. The local rooks and jackdaws have had a difficult time in the wild weather, but they are now starting to nest in the trees behind the chapel. Brenda has continued to look after the inside of the chapel and Keith has been over to make sure that the organ is in good shape.

We have had a good display of snowdrops and the daffodils are just starting to come out. The nights are getting lighter and Spring is on the way. The crops in the fields seem to be progressing well, but the earlier bad weather has hindered the harvesting of the sugar beet.

We are continuing with virtual services on Sunday, both thanks to Mark Hayes for his Thoughts for Sunday and zoom services arranged by Rev. Hilary Davey together with her son, James and his wife, Sara. We are extremely grateful to them.

The village clock, which has been on the chapel roof for over 150 years, continues to chime and has been looked after by one of our congregation, Eric Lee, for over 30 years and he has decided to retire from the job. We have been very lucky to obtain the services of Jim Neville, who lives directly opposite the chapel. We should like to thank Eric for his devotion to the clock and wish him a happy 90th birthday in March.

The village continues to thrive in this difficult time, with “The Oak” providing takeaway meals and Michael Prentice, the butcher, opening up to provide delicious meat and vegetables.

Let us hope that as the year progresses, it won't be too long before the children can go back to school and we are able to celebrate our Christian beliefs in the chapel again

We send our best wishes to our friends in Sawston.

God's blessing to you all.

Val and Friends.

Just for Fun

Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing a strong preaching on the devil.

One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?"

The other boy replied, 'Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your Dad.'

=====

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

The mother replied, "Because white is the colour of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life."

The child thought about this for a moment then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

=====

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers.

The first boy says, 'My Dad scribbles a few word on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him £50.'

The second boy says, 'That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him £100.'

The third boy says, 'I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!'

=====

An elderly woman died last month.

Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers.

In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, 'They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead.'

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A police recruit was asked during the exam, 'What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?'

He answered, 'Call for backup.'

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A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem .

A small child replied, 'They couldn't get a baby-sitter.'

=====

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year old's.

After explaining the commandment to 'Honour thy father and thy mother,' she asked, 'Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?'

Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

=====

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings.

Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he was ill, and she said, 'Johnny, what is the matter?'

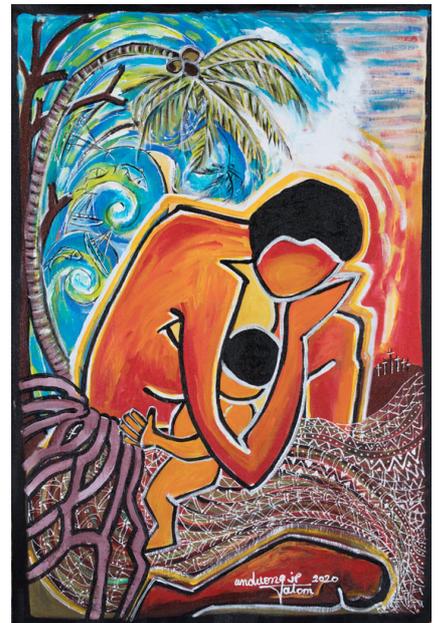
Little Johnny responded, 'I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife.'

=====

World Day of Prayer March 5th 2021

The theme this year from the island of Vanuatu in the south Pacific is “Build on a strong foundation”. After much discussion with the other churches in Sawston it was decided to delay our joint service until we can meet together. Hopefully either meet outside or in a church building when it is safe to do so in the late spring or summer depending on the country’s situation.

Vanuatu is an archipelago of 80 islands and endures many turbulent times. In 2020 Cyclone Harold devastated everything in its path and they are still recovering from the devastation. The people of Vanuatu need our prayers and support. Although we will not be celebrating on March 5th, please keep other countries and places in your prayers on that day so we may be part of the World Day of Prayer with them.



Vanuatu's susceptibility to cyclones is highlighted in the painting chosen to represent WDP 2021, titled “Cyclone Pam II: 13th of March, 2015”.

It shows a mother bending and praying over her child. The waves crash over her but a palm tree bends protectively over them. The woman's skirt is modeled after the traditional clothing on Erromango. On the horizon you can see small crosses representing the lives taken by cyclone Pam in 2015.

Mary Simuyandi

I have finally, FINALLY, got round to ploughing through Rowan Williams' latest major book, '*Christ the Heart of Creation*' which has been lying on my desk for two years (1). It is an historical survey of how Christians through the ages have understood the relationship between God the Son (meaning the second person of the Trinity) and Jesus of Nazareth (meaning the human being who lived and died in Palestine two thousand years ago.) In particular, it is about how we Christians have understood and expressed the effect of the death of that man on the individual, on all humanity, and on God. In telling this story, Williams inadvertently displays how Christian proclamation has changed through the centuries in order to address an ever-changing world. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever, but the proclamation of the church most certainly isn't, and unless the church wishes to be totally irrelevant to the world, it mustn't be.

Williams quotes the pithy remark of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 'Only a suffering God can help.' Bonhoeffer was addressing the monstrosities of the Nazi regime, at the hands of which he eventually died. Jurgen Moltmann made his name with his '*The Crucified God*' of 1972. Williams himself made his name with '*The Wound of Knowledge*' of 1979. Bonhoeffer, Moltmann and Williams, three major names in 20th century European theology, are representative of an entire school of European theology that has wrestled with the scale of the suffering inflicted throughout the continent through the slaughter of two world wars and the diabolic evils of the Nazi regime. There is still far to go.

Maybe worshipping Christians have long since come to terms with these monstrosities, but their proclamation of the gospel has not. We in Britain, as in the rest of Europe, have failed to find the words we need to persuade a deeply cynical and disillusioned society that in speaking of Jesus Christ we still have something to say about the curing of society's ills. It is conspicuous that Christian voices have had little of worth to say during the pandemic. It does not occur to secular people that Christian words might help cure their hurting bodies or their minds. They look to drugs and talking therapies, self-help secular 'spiritualities', mindfulness and meditation. They dismiss our beloved words as yesterday's words – words that have failed. And to them, they have.

For we British Christians, who still tend to think that it ought to be like it was back in the 19th century, when a greater proportion of the population was in church on a Sunday than at any

other time in our entire history, the scale of the reverse is crushing. To be so irrelevant is deeply hurtful.

And our cure? I propose that much neglected spiritual gift: patience. It will take us more than a mere fifty years to get our heads round what happened in the twentieth century. A glance across the Atlantic is instructive. The two world wars didn't destroy the USA as they did Europe – neither in body nor in spirit. On the contrary, they were the making of it – both its wealth and its sense of wellbeing. Today's American preachers sound like our Victorian preachers sounded: they glory in God's blessing of their land, whilst pleading for radical social reform. Mainstream American preaching will not give us our new voice. (I concede that a black American voice might.) When that voice comes, it will more likely come out of our own, chastened European experience. And folk will say, 'Can any good come from *there?*'

In the meantime, 'Keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.' And 'Beware that no-one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say "I am he" ' (Mk 13: 33 & 5-6.)

(1) What I write here does not reflect the broad contents of Williams' book. These are merely my reflections. The bulk of the book is a dense, extremely technical analysis of Mediaeval and Reformation Christology.

=====

The latest letter from our sponsored child Piero who lives in Peru.

Dear Sponsor Sawston Free Church.

I greet you in the name of Jesus. Where I live there are no scouts, but there are camps here in my church. I like when we go to the swimming pool, specially receiving topics that teaches us about the love of God.

Currently I am not going to my training. I tell you that my family and I are going fishing. I tell you that my Olympic games started in my school, we competed with the class of 5th grade B and we won with 7 to 2. On Wednesday in the afternoon we played against 5th grade B and we had a tie with 3 to 3. I tell you that I am the goalkeeper of my team. I tell you that my classes of school started.

They gave me a report card and I had good results in my grades. How is your health? Were you a scout? Have you ever participated in your school olympics? How is your daughter doing? I ask you to pray for my family and me.

I say goodbye with a big hug.

Piero Fernando Yovera Escobar

"I think I must have mentioned some of the things our grandchildren like doing"

Rosemary Harriss

New Experiences During Lockdown

Working in a school during a pandemic has meant many changes and lots of flexibility as we adapt to new guidelines and regulations.

I am very thankful to work in a school that has balanced the safety of its staff and pupils with its commitment to continue to provide the highest quality of teaching and learning.

Our teachers and support staff are working incredibly hard and deserve recognition for everything they are doing to support pupils during this time.

One of the biggest changes for me during this term has been working in the testing centre.

Many of you will be familiar with The Henry

Morris Hall. It is a beautiful room full of history and has been used for many different events over the years from school assemblies and drama productions to blood donations and exercise classes with many more in between. It is currently set up with individual testing bays where staff and pupils who are working in school can be tested for covid-19 using a lateral flow device.

After a person has swabbed their throat and nose, the swab is then passed to a test processor, which is my role. It takes about 30minutes to process a test and obtain the positive or negative result but I can keep an eye on several tests at a time. I have a system!

I have found it really interesting to be part of the mass testing process and see how it all works behind the scenes. With practical science lessons unable to take place during lockdown, it has been good to still be able to support the school in this new way and to have the opportunity to get away from my computer screen. I really miss being a science technician and I am looking forward to practical science lessons taking place again, hopefully towards the end of this term.

Please continue to keep all school staff in your thoughts as we prepare to welcome all of our pupils back into our classrooms.

Valerie Kerr



The Tichborne Dole

The Tichborne Dole is an ancient English tradition still very much alive today. It takes place in the village of Tichborne near Alresford in Hampshire every year on March 25th the Feast of the Annunciation (Lady's Day) and dates back to the 13th century.

Suffering from a wasting disease which had left her crippled, on her deathbed Lady Mabella Tichborne asked her miserly husband, Sir Roger, to donate food to the needy regularly every year. Her husband was reluctant but made a bizarre agreement as to how much he would give.

Sir Roger agreed to give the corn from all the land which his dying wife could crawl around whilst holding a blazing torch in her hand, before the torch went out. Lady Mabella succeeded in crawling around a twenty-three acre field which is still called 'The Crawls' to this day and which is situated just north of Tichborne Park and beside the road to Alresford.

Lady Tichborne charged her husband and his heirs to give the produce value of that land to the poor in perpetuity. But aware of her husband's miserly character, Mabella added a curse – that should the dole ever be stopped then seven sons would be born to the house, followed immediately by a generation of seven daughters, after which the Tichborne name would die out and the ancient house fall into ruin.

The custom of giving the dole, in the form of bread, on 25th March, Lady Day continued for over 600 years, until 1796, when owing to abuse by vagabonds and vagrants, it was temporarily suspended by order of the Magistrates.

Local folk however, remembered the final part of the Tichborne legend and Lady Tichborne's curse. The penalty for not giving the dole would be a generation of seven daughters, the family name would die out and the ancient house fall down. In 1803 part of the house did indeed subside and the curse seemed to have been fulfilled when Sir Henry Tichborne who succeeded to the baronetcy in 1821(one of seven brothers), produced seven daughters.

The tradition was hastily re-established and has continued to this day.

Roger, Henry's nephew, was born before the restoration of the Dole and his younger brother Alfred afterwards. Roger was lost at sea in 1845 and was impersonated two decades later by the unsuccessful Tichborne claimant, Arthur Orton. Alfred was the only one to survive Lady Tichborne's curse and thus the Tichborne name did not die out.

The Dole is held every Lady Day, March 25th. The parish priest carries out the traditional Blessing of the Tichborne Dole before the flour is distributed to the local people – only those families in Tichborne, Cheriton and Lane End are entitled to the dole. They receive one gallon of flour per adult and half a gallon per child.

Did you know?

O Come O Come Emmanuel

It's a rare carol that swaps cradles and shepherds for "Satan's tyranny" and "death's dark shadows", and perhaps that's the appeal of this wonderfully brooding, solemn hymn.

There's no exuberant rejoicing in a 15th century melody that may have originally been used as processional music for burial rites. The words, a colourful translation of a Latin antiphon, were written by 19th century clergyman John Mason Neale, who also gave us 'Good King Wenceslas' and 'Good Christian Men, Rejoice'.

(with thanks to Kate Leach)

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

By William Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.



"I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" is one of the most famous and best-loved poems written in the English language. It was composed by Romantic poet William Wordsworth around 1804, though he subsequently revised it—the final and most familiar version of the poem was published in 1815. The poem is based on one of Wordsworth's own walks in the countryside of England's Lake District. During this walk, he and his sister encountered a long strip of daffodils. In the poem, these daffodils have a long-lasting effect on the speaker, firstly in the immediate impression they make and secondly in the way that the image of them comes back to the speaker's mind later on.

"I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" is a quintessentially Romantic poem, bringing together key ideas about imagination, humanity and the natural world.



Thank you for supporting Christingle this year

Dear Mrs Simuyandi,

Thank you so much for taking part in Christingle. We know that your service may have been a little different this year, but we're more grateful than ever for your support. Thanks to you, we'll be able to reach the children hardest hit by this pandemic, and help them through their darkest times.

We can't thank you enough for all the hard work you have all put in to ensure the Christingle tradition continues.

Whether you're doing it with your Church or your community, organising a Christingle is always a challenge, but this year supporters like you have gone to extraordinary lengths to help us celebrate and raise money. Hundreds of you celebrated via Zoom and got creative with our new resources to share the light with your community. We even heard of supporters hosting a drive-in Christingle for families from their village and further afield! If you haven't done so already there is still time to pay in your donations this year.

Thank you for making a real difference and choosing to give the most vulnerable children the lifeline they need.

The impact we can have on a young person's life is all driven by you – our volunteers, supporters and campaigners. When you attend a Christingle and support The Children's Society you are helping us be there for the most vulnerable children who need us during these worrying and challenging times.

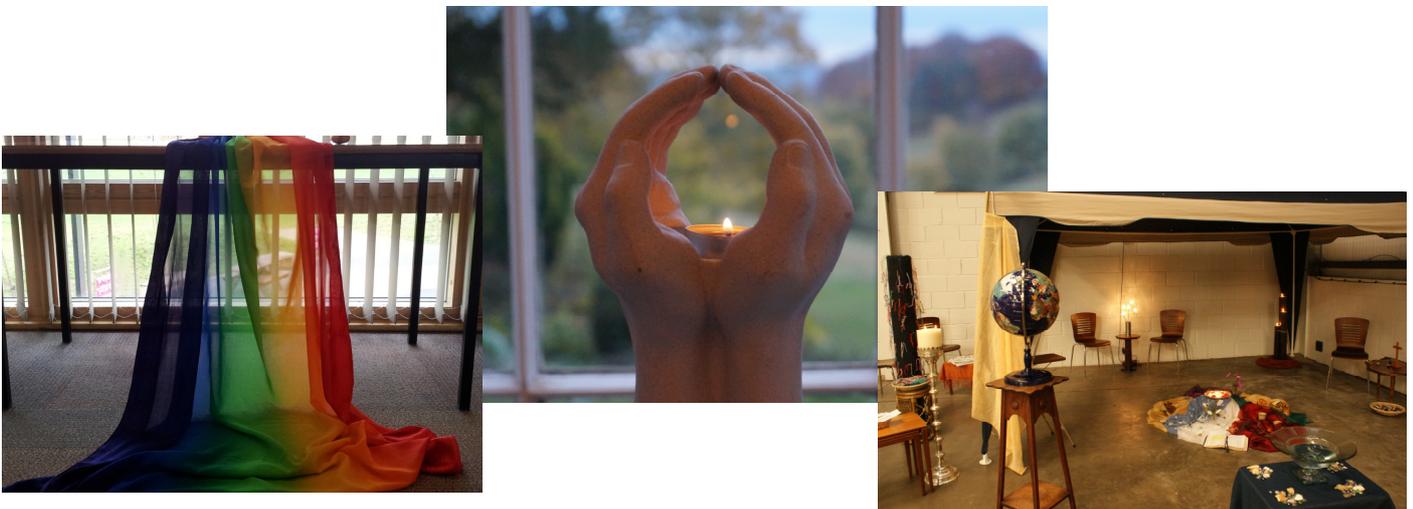
Thank you once again for helping to make sure that children in this country can look forward to a hope-filled, brighter future



East Anglia Methodist District

This Lent, as we approach the anniversary of the first lockdown, and as our country reaches a crucial stage in dealing with the pandemic, we are coming together in a virtual

Day of Prayer and Reflection



Saturday March 6th 2021

Further details to come but it is likely that there will be online gatherings at the beginning and end of the set aside time as well as pic 'n' mix 'at home' suggestions for use during the day.

If you have ideas or comments that you would like to put into the planning OR offers of help with any aspect please contact: rev.jacqui.horton@gmail.com or jjamesbamber@gmail.com


The Methodist Church
Global Relationships

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**Global Encounter
Saturday 20th March 2021, 10 am to 12 noon**



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**For further details and an invitation to join the event via Zoom,
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The Footprints Café



at
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The **Footprints Café** is a community cafe offering a wide range of reasonably priced Snacks and Meals together with Teas & Coffees, Cold drinks, Cakes and Pastries.

We are open Monday to Friday from 8.30 am to 3.30 pm. Breakfasts are served until 11.30 am.

The **Footprints Café** is located at the back of Sawston Free Church. Car parking behind the church.

NEW! Children's menu

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As a visually impaired man, I have become aware that this has further facilitated my non-judgemental attitude towards clients.



I charge £43 per hour, £22 concessions.

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